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PASS: CITA SUPERVISORS: WF-SSA [_____] AT- SSA [____]

[____] NY-SSA [_____]

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SUBJECT: [_____] EUROPEAN HACKER GROUP PARTICIPATED

IN ELECTRONIC ATTACK ON PENTAGON INTERNET WEBSITE (U).

     WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY

EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED C̶O̶N̶F̶I̶D̶E̶N̶T̶

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SOURCE: (U) INTERNET NEWS GROUPS.

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SUMMARY: (X) ON 09 SEPTEMBER 1998, AN ITALIAN HACKER GROUP (U)
PARTICIPATED IN SIMULTANEOUS ELECTRONIC ATTACKS (NETSTRIKES)
ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN MEXICO, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED
STATES. ITALIAN HACKER GROUP SUPPORTED THE ELECTRONIC ATTACK
AND PRESENTED THE STATUS OF THE ATTACK AS IT WAS HAPPENING.

TEXT:

1. (X) THE GROUP, THE ELECTRONIC DISTURBANCE THEATER (EDT), (U)
ANNOUNCED AN INTERNET-BASED ELECTRONIC ATTACK (A
"NETSTRIKE") ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN THE UNITED STATES,
GERMANY, AND MEXICO ON 05 SEPTEMBER 1998. THE NETSTRIKE
ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED TO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT INTERNET
NEWS GROUPS, INCLUDING AN ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS
GROUP. THE ACTION CALLED FOR BY THE EDT WAS FOR "MULTIPLE
ACTS OF ELECTRONIC CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" IN SUPPORT OF "THE
ZAPATISTAS IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO, AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
STRUGGLING AGAINST THE GLOBAL NEOLIBERAL ECONOMY". THE
NETSTRIKE WAS PLANNED FOR 09 SEPTEMBER AND WAS AIMED AT THE
FOLLOWING COMPUTER SYSTEMS

b3 10 USC §130c

2. (X) THE EDT WAS PLANNING ON PURSUING THE NETSTRIKE IN (U)
CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARS ELECTRONICA FESTIVAL ON INFORMATION
WARFARE (INFOWAR) HELD IN LINZ, AUSTRIA, FROM 07 - 12
SEPTEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN OF 05 SEPTEMBER CALLED FOR
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO CONNECT THEIR INTERNET WEB
BROWSERS TO THE EDT'S FLOODNET SOFTWARE LOCATED ON THEIR
HOMEPAGE AT HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/
^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/JAVASCRP.HTM AND
HTTP://WWW.NYU.EDU/PROJECTS[   ]ECD.HTML. THE EDT PLANNED   b6
TO USE THEIR FLOODNET SOFTWARE AND THE COMPUTERS OF   b7C
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO EFFECTIVELY BLOCK ACCESS TO
THESE THREE SITES BY FLOODING THE SITES WITH MORE "HITS"
(ATTEMPTED INTERNET CONNECTIONS) THAN THE TARGETED COMPUTER
SYSTEMS COULD EFFECTIVELY NEGOTIATE, CAUSING THE TARGETED
COMPUTER NETWORK TO EFFECTIVELY DROP OFF-LINE.

3. (X) THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP POSTINGS   (U)
CONCERNING THE EDT AND THE NETSTRIKE WERE POSTED BY THE
ITALIAN HACKER WITH THE INTERNET CALL-SIGN "FERRY BYTE".
FERRY BYTE IS A MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN HACKER GROUP "STRANO
NETWORK" AND ITS SUBSET "POST_AXION MUTANTE". THE STRANO

NETWORK IS A PART OF A LARGER CONSORTIUM OF ITALIAN SOCIAL

ACTIVIST AND HACKER GROUPS KNOWN AS THE "EUROPEAN COUNTER

NETWORK" (ECN). FERRY BYTE TRANSLATED THE ORIGINAL EDT

BULLETIN INTO ITALIAN AND POSTED IT TO THE ITALIAN HACKER

INTERNET NEWS GROUP. IN HIS ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF THE EDT

BULLETIN, FERRY BYTE ALSO PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

FOR FACILITATING THE NETSTRIKE. FERRY BYTE RECOMMENDED THAT

INTERESTED COMPUTER USERS SHOULD PERFORM THE FOLLOWING:

USERS SHOULD CONTINUALLY "RELOAD" THE DESIGNATED LINK (WHICH

WOULD CONTINUALLY QUERY THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION); OPEN AS MANY INTERNET BROWSERS AND

WINDOWS AS POSSIBLE, QUERYING THE DESIGNATED TARGETED

COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN EACH OF THE WINDOWS; SET THE MEMORY OF

THE INTERNET BROWSER'S CACHE TO ZERO; DO NOT START OR ALLOW

ANY PROXIES FOR THE INTERNET BROWSER; AND DISSEMINATE

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANNED NETSTRIKE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS

POSSIBLE. FERRY BYTE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE INTERNET ADDRESS OF

A SITE WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE NETSTRIKE BY CONTROLLING

THE SYMPATHETIC USER'S COMPUTER. THE INTERNET SITE IS

HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML. FERRY

BYTE ALSO PROVIDED THE RELEVANT IP ADDRESSES FOR EACH OF THE

TARGETED SITES. FERRY BYTE CONCLUDED BY ADDING THAT THE

PROGRESS/SUCCESS OF THE NETSTRIKE CAN BE FOLLOWED BY SIMPLY

TRYING TO "PING" OR PERFORM A TRACE ROUTE (TRACERT) ON THE

TARGETED SERVERS. (FIELD COMMENT: LONGER "PING" TIMES

WOULD CORRESPOND TO MORE ACTIVITY ON THE TARGETED COMPUTER

SYSTEM. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE EDT ORGANIZERS IS THAT THE

TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM WOULD BE UNREACHABLE.)

4. (C)   PROGRESS OF THE EDT-ORGANIZED NETSTRIKE AGAINST THE   (U)

TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEMS WAS REPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS

POSTINGS MADE BY FERRY BYTE ON 09 SEPTEMBER. AT 1216L (ALL

TIMES EUROPEAN STANDARD TIME) ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE

POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE HACKMEETING INTERNET NEWS GROUP

STATING THAT THE WEBSITE AT

HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL

/ZAPS.HTML WAS NOT RESPONDING AS OF 1200L AND THAT

SYMPATHETIC USERS SHOULD TRY TO ACCESS THE TARGETED WEB

SITES DIRECTLY. AT 1216L, FERRY BYTE ALSO STATED THAT ALL

THREE OF THE TARGETED WEB SITES ARE APPARENTLY FINDING IT

MORE DIFFICULT TO OPERATE AND THE WEB SITE OF THE MEXICAN

PRESIDENT WAS ESPECIALLY SLOW IN RESPONDING. FERRY BYTE

CONCLUDED HIS MESSAGE BY STATING THAT NONE OF THE TARGETED

WEBSITES ARE RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS DIRECTED AT THEM.

5. (X) AT 1243L ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE PROVIDED AN   (U)

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT

HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML WAS ON-

LINE AGAIN. FERRY BYTE ALSO ADDED AT THIS TIME THAT THE

TARGETED WEB SITES WERE NOW RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS, BUT

THAT THE RESPONSE TIMES WERE MUCH SLOWER THAN NORMAL. AT

1617 ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE PROVIDED A THIRD UPDATE ON

THE STATUS OF THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT THE WHILE THE

TARGETED SITES WERE STILL ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT TOO MUCH

DIFFICULTY, THEY WERE RESPONDING MORE SLOWLY.

6. (X) IN A RELATED POSTING, ANOTHER ECN MEMBER [   ]   (U)

[   ] POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET

NEWS GROUP AT 1850L ON 09 SEPTEMBER STATING THAT A MEMBER OF

THE EDT, [   ] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING

TELEPHONE CALL. [   ] FORWARDED A EDT BULLETIN STATING THAT

[   ] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING PHONE CALL ON 09

SEPTEMBER AT 0732L IN HIS HOTEL ROOM IN LINZ, AUSTRIA. THE

BULLETIN REPORTED THAT A UNKNOWN PERSON, PRESUMED TO BE

MEXICAN, CALLED [   ] AT HIS HOTEL ROOM, ROOM NUMBER

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610 AT THE STEINBERGER MAXX HOTEL IN LINZ, AUSTRIA.

ACCORDING TO THE EDT BULLETIN,[   ] WAS THREATENED

NOT TO GIVE HIS PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NETSTRIKE AT THE ARS

ELECTRONICA INFOWAR FESTIVAL (NFI).[   ] NEWSGROUP

POSTING ALSO PROVIDES ADDITIONAL EDT GUIDANCE FOR

SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS ON HOW TO CONFIGURE THEIR

INTERNET BROWSERS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE

EDT NETFLOOD SOFTWARE: 1) DISABLE JAVA SCRIPT, 2) SET THE

INTERNET BROSWER PROXIES TO "DIRECT COMMUNICATION TO

INTERNET", 3) SET INTERNET BROWSER CACHES TO "EVERY TIME",

AND 4) LEAVE INTERNET BROWSER CONNECTED TO FLOODNET DURING

THE 24 HOUR NETSTRIKE.

7. (U) THE EDT BULLETIN ALSO OUTLINED PROPOSED FUTURE

NETSTRIKE ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THE BULLETIN, EDT PLANS TO

PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE FLOODNET ACTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 16 SEPTEMBER, DIA DE LA RAZA ON

12 OCTOBER, AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AT THE SCHOOL OF THE

AMERICAS ON 22 NOVEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN EDT ACTIVITY

PLANNED AGAINST THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ON 04

OCTOBER AND 05 OCTOBER (NFI).

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8. .(X) MEMBERS OF THE ECN HAVE SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF   (U)

DIFFERENT SOCIAL CAUSES IN THE PAST. FERRY BYTE CLAIMS THAT

THE CONCEPT OF A NETSTRIKE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ITALIAN

GROUP STRANO NETWORK IN JANUARY 1998 TO SUPPORT THE CHIAPAS

MOVEMENT IN MEXICO. FERRY BYTE FURTHER STATED THAT THE

JANUARY 1998 NETSTRIKE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TARGETED AGAINST 2-3

MEXICAN INTERNET WEB SITES. IN AN EDT BULLETIN, EDT STATED

THAT THEY HAVE BEEN USING ITS FLOODNET SOFTWARE SINCE APRIL

1998 TO "ENGAGE IN VIRTUAL SIT-INS ON THE WEB SITES OF THE

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CLINTON WHITE HOUSE".

9. (X) ON 26 SEPTEMBER, EDT MEMBER [   ] POSTED A   (U)

MESSAGE TO AN INTERNET NEWS GROUP THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO

REMOVE THE EDT WEBSITE FROM THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S (NYU)   b6

WEB SERVER. [   ] STATED THAT THE MOVE WAS REQUIRED   b7C

FOLLOWING AN EMAIL FROM THE DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

AGENCY (DISA) AUTOMATED SYSTEM SECURITY INCIDENT SUPPORT

TEAM (ASSIST) TO THE NYU COMPUTER SECURITY MANAGER.

[   ] ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS FOR THE EDT

AND ITS FLOODNET PROJECT IS LOCATED AT

HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ECD/ECD.HTML.

COMMENTS: (FIELD COMMENTS) 1. (C) IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT

THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN NETSTRIKES AGAINST DOD SITES AS

THESE SOCIAL ACTIVISTS/HACKER GROUPS SUPPORT MORE CAUSES

WHICH THEY PERCEIVE THE DOD TO BE INIMICAL TO.

WARNING: (U) REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~.

DRV FROM: (U) DIA[____]MSG 291330Z JAN 96.   **b3 per DIA**

DECL: (U) ~~X1, X5, X6~~.

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